Reviewer's report

Title: Interpersonal psychotherapy (IPT) for late-life depression in general practice: a feasibility study

Version: 3 Date: 4 June 2007

Reviewer: Bruce Arroll

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

I agree with reviewer Markowitz that the actual research in this paper is meager. If it was done as a prospective evaluation rather than an after-thought then not as much effort went in to this aspect of it as did the RCT part. The authors are to be commended for conducting an RCT of IPT in the elderly. The amount of material they have would be better presented in a research letter as there are some fascinating insights such as the patients not readily acknowledging their depression. The RCT part of it really only warrants a paragraph as the focus should be the feasibility. It would be interesting to know whom they thought they were seeing. Was the therapist called a therapist or psychologist or some similar name. A full feasibility study would include extensive interviewing of GPs, practice staff, patients and therapist. This was not done. The fact that the therapy was free raises the issue that patients could have been asked how much they would have been willing to pay for such a service. While the authors are willing to change the title the term feasibility still occurs frequently throughout the article.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests